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Our ref: AQW 48950/22-27
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**Gareth Wilson MLA
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont**

Dear Gareth

AQW 48950/22-27 – INFORMATION TO BE PLACED IN THE ASSEMBLY LIBRARY

Due to the volume of information provided to answer AQW 48950/22-27, I have arranged for the detail attached at Annex A to be placed in the Assembly Library.

Yours sincerely,



**Gordon Lyons MLA
Minister for Communities**

This issue is an operational matter for Northern Ireland Housing Executive, they have advised me as follows:

“(i) Table 1 below provides data on the number of allocations to applicant households on the Social Housing Waiting List for a 5-year period from 01/04/2021 to 31/03/2026 in Newry & Armagh Parliamentary Constituency & N. Ireland Total, by Mean & Median Waiting Time on the Waiting List (in months) and Mean & Median Points at the point of allocation, broken down by allocation year. The table should be viewed in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Table 1: No. of allocations to applicant households on the Social Housing Waiting List for a 5-year period from 01/04/2021 to 31/03/2026 in Newry & Armagh Parliamentary Constituency & N. Ireland Total, by Mean & Median Waiting Time on the Waiting List (in months) and Mean & Median Points at the point of allocation, broken down by allocation year						
Year of allocation	Parliamentary Constituency / Geography	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months) at the	Median Waiting Time (in months) at the	Mean Points at the point of allocation	Median Points at the point of allocation

			<i>point of allocation</i>	<i>point of allocation</i>		
<i>Allocations from 01/04/2021 to 31/03/2022</i>	<i>Newry & Armagh PC</i>	284	30.1	20.0	140.5	152.0
	<i>N. Ireland Total</i>	6,010	26.8	17.0	141.5	142.0
<i>Allocations from 01/04/2022 to 31/03/2023</i>	<i>Newry & Armagh PC</i>	236	34.1	23.0	140.8	154.0
	<i>N. Ireland Total</i>	5,796	29.5	19.0	147.5	148.0
<i>Allocations from 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024</i>	<i>Newry & Armagh PC</i>	298	35.3	25.0	147.5	160.0
	<i>N. Ireland Total</i>	5,710	30.4	19.0	149.1	148.0
<i>Allocations from 01/04/2024 to 31/03/2025</i>	<i>Newry & Armagh PC</i>	291	38.0	23.0	149.4	156.0
	<i>N. Ireland Total</i>	6,054	33.7	21.0	152.2	150.0
<i>Allocations from 01/04/2025 to 31/03/2026</i>	<i>Newry & Armagh PC</i>	297	38.3	26.0	139.0	154.0
	<i>N. Ireland Total</i>	5,943	36.5	23.0	146.5	148.0

Table 2 below provides data on the number of applicant households on the Social Housing Waiting List as at 31/03/2021, 31/03/2022, 31/03/2023, 31/03/2024, 31/03/2025, 31/03/2026 in Newry & Armagh Parliamentary Constituency & N. Ireland total, by Mean & Median Waiting Time on the Waiting List (in months) and Mean & Median Points on the Waiting List. The table should also be viewed in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Table 2: No. applicant households on the Social Housing Waiting List as at 31/03/2021, 31/03/2022, 31/03/2023, 31/03/2024, 31/03/2025, 31/03/2026 in Newry & Armagh Parliamentary Constituency, by Mean & Median Waiting Time on the Waiting List (in months) and Mean & Median Points on the Waiting List

Waiting List as of date	Parliamentary Constituency / Geography	No. of applicant households	Mean Waiting Time (in months) on the Waiting List	Median Waiting Time (in months) on the Waiting List	Mean Points on the Waiting List	Median Points on the Waiting List
Waiting List as at 31/03/2021	Newry & Armagh PC	2,254	44.4	27.0	82.7	90.0
	N. Ireland Total	43,971	41.5	25.0	73.9	78.0
Waiting List as at 31/03/2022	Newry & Armagh PC	2,217	48.1	31.0	83.8	92.0

	<i>N. Ireland Total</i>	44,426	44.6	29.0	77.6	86.0
<i>Waiting List as at 31/03/2023</i>	<i>Newry & Armagh PC</i>	2,237	50.2	33.0	84.6	96.0
	<i>N. Ireland Total</i>	45,105	46.7	31.0	79.8	90.0
<i>Waiting List as at 31/03/2024</i>	<i>Newry & Armagh PC</i>	2,272	51.6	33.0	84.5	98.0
	<i>N. Ireland Total</i>	47,312	48.0	32.0	83.7	94.0
<i>Waiting List as at 31/03/2025</i>	<i>Newry & Armagh PC</i>	2,352	53.8	34.5	82.0	92.0
	<i>N. Ireland Total</i>	49,083	50.4	33.0	84.9	96.0
<i>Waiting List as at 31/03/2026</i>	<i>Newry & Armagh PC</i>	2,340	55.7	35.0	81.0	90.0
	<i>N. Ireland Total</i>	50,381	52.5	35.0	85.1	96.0

(ii) Table 3 below provides data from the waiting list on the longest time waited as at 31/03/2021, 31/03/2022, 31/03/2023, 31/03/2024, 31/03/2025, 31/03/2026 in Newry and Armagh Parliamentary Constituency. The longest time waited at point of allocation in each of those years has also been provided for context. The table should also be viewed in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Table 3: Longest Waiting Times - Newry and Armagh Parliamentary Constituency		
Waiting List as of date	Longest waiting time on the waiting list (Months)	Longest time waited at point of allocation (Months)
<i>Waiting List as at 31/03/2021</i>	314	163
<i>Waiting List as at 31/03/2022</i>	431	241
<i>Waiting List as at 31/03/2023</i>	443	209
<i>Waiting List as at 31/03/2024</i>	455	267

Waiting List as at 31/03/2025	467	287
Waiting List as at 31/03/2026	479	340

Supporting Notes:

- *This response is based on the most recently published data from the Housing Management System (up to 31/03/2026).*
- *Waiting List data is a snapshot of the Social Housing Waiting List as it was on the last day of the specified quarter (in this case 31/03/2021, 31/03/2022, 31/03/2023, 31/03/2024, 31/03/2025, 31/03/2026)*
- *Allocations are aggregated over five 1-year periods from 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2025 and include allocations to Housing Executive and housing association properties.*
- *When a question of “average waiting times” or “average points” is asked, MEAN and MEDIAN averages are provided.*

Reasons for this include:

- *The MEAN (arithmetic average) is useful for understanding overall trends but can be heavily skewed by outliers (unusually high or low values) – for example, applicants who have been on the waiting list for a number of years or who have just joined the waiting list.*
- *The MEDIAN (middle value, a measure of central tendency) is less affected by outliers and represents a “typical” case better when the data is skewed.*

By presenting both, we ensure that the analysis captures both central tendency and the potential impact of unusually high or low values.

Section 13(1) of the Statistics and Registration Services Act 2007 states that ‘the person producing any official statistics which are designated under section 12 as National Statistics must ensure that the Code of Practice for Statistics under section 10 continues to be complied with in relation to those statistics.’ Provision of the requested figures before publication of the DfC Housing Bulletin in which the dataset from which they would be drawn is published would be a failure to comply with the Code in respect of parts T3.3 and T3.4. The figures beyond the period already covered by the latest Housing Bulletin (after 31/03/2026) are therefore currently exempt from disclosure, pending publication of the next Housing Bulletin.”